Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5145
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T NATO 07310

SUBJECT: ALLIANCE STUDY OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS:
FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR IMPLICATIONS SECTION OF OUTLINE

REF: (A) NATO 5525, (B) NATO 6239

1. FRENCH CHARGE DE LA FERRIERE CALLED ON ACTING DCM JULY 27 TO PROPOSE FOLLOWING TEXT FOR THE IMPLICATIONS SECTION OF THE OUTLINE OF THE ALLIANCE EAST-WEST STUDY: "EVENTUAL IMPLICATIONS OF DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF THE ABOVE ANALYSES ON THE EVOLUTION OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, AS WELL AS ON THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS THAT CAN AFFECT THAT SECURITY." FRENCH TEXT IS: "INCIDENCES EVENTUELLES DES DIFFERENTS ELEMENTS FAISANT L'OBJET DES ANALYSES CI-DESSUS SUR L'EVOLUTION DES RAPPORTS EST-OUEST, AINSI QUE SUR LA SECURITE DE L'ALLIANCE, EN TENANT COMPTE DES ASPECTS POLITIQUES ET ECONOMIQUES QUI PEUVENT AVOIR DES REPERCUSSIONS SUR CETTE SECURITE".

2. DE LA FERRIERE CHARACTERIZED THIS LANGUAGE AS (A) AN INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR BRIDGING US-FRENCH DIFFERENCES, (B) SUFFICIENTLY BROAD NOT TO PRECLUDE COVERING THE SUBJECTS IN THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL STAFF OUTLINE, (C) A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND NOT A FINAL FRENCH
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POSITION. HE HOPED WE WOULD PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE FRENCH APPROACH COULD BE ACCOMMODATED, NOTING FRENCH AVERSION TO PUTTING "TOO MUCH ON PAPER" IN THE OUTLINE. WE TOLD DE LA FERRIERE THAT WE WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE FRENCH SUGGESTION AND PROVIDE OUR REACTIONS.

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3. COMMENT: ON THE SURFACE, THE NEW FRENCH PROPOSAL APPEARS TO BE MUCH MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN OUR PREFERRED LANGUAGE FOR THE IMPLICATIONS SECTION (REF A). IF STRICTLY INTERPRETED, IT COULD LIMIT THE FOCUS OF THE IMPLICATIONS SECTION TO ASPECTS OF THE STUDY DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE AND RULE OUT DISCUSSION OF BROADER POLICY ISSUES.

4. IN THE LONDON COMMUNIQUE, ALLIANCE LEADERS (INCLUDING FRANCE) CALLED FOR A STUDY OF THE LONG-TERM TRENDS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR "IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIANCE." WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT WE SHOULD PROPOSE TO THE FRENCH A MORE GENERALIZED FORMULATION THAT WILL NOT LIMIT THE POSSIBLE SCOPE OF THE IMPLICATIONS SECTION, BUT WILL AVOID EXPLICITNESS - ANATHEMA TO THE FRENCH. WE SUGGEST WASHINGTON CONSIDER A TRIAL FORMULATION ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "IMPLICATIONS OF THE LONG-TERM TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE FOR THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND FOR THE ALLIANCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT VIEWS. BENNETT

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